

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
Meeting of October 9, 2007

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**LOCATION:** 234 N. Central Avenue, Suite 6400, Parks Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Laurel Arndt, Jill Kusy, Salomon, Leija, Anne Lynch, Jack Stapley, Randy Virden

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** (District 4)

**STAFF PRESENT:** William C. Scalzo, Assistant County Manager; R.J. Cardin, Director; Tina Allen, Administrator; Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Superintendent; John Gunn, Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area Park Supervisor; Chris Coover, Maricopa Trail Manager; Fareed Abou-Haidar, GIS Technician; Amelia Sowers, HR Liaison; Constance Sinclair, Accounting Assistant; Frank Wodiuk, Intern; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Assistant and recorder, and Terry Eckhart, County Counsel.

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The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the October 9, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission**

- Meeting called to order at 10:08 a.m.

**ITEM # 2 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was present.**

**ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - *ACTION ITEM***

- Motion to approve the minutes as written by Commissioner Lynch, with a second by Randy Virden.

**ITEM #4 – CORRECT NOMINATING SUB-COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department Commission – *ACTION ITEM***

- Chair Kusy noted that some appointments made at the September meeting needed a correction. Randy Virden is to Chair the Nominating Sub-Committee, adding Salomon Leija to the committee, and Laurel Arndt still a part of the committee. This sub-committee will meet directly after today's Commission meeting. Under the by-laws, Chair Kusy remains as ex-officio member of the nominating committee.

**ITEM #5 – DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

- The Unmark your Park clean up took place on October 6<sup>th</sup> at four of our Regional Parks, with a major effort at the Agua Fria Conservation Area.
- The dedication for the El Rio research and education project with Flood Control was very successful on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The Valley Forward Environmental Excellence Awards were on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> where the Parks Department received two awards of merit; one for the Spur Cross Trail and the second for Interpretive Programs.

**ITEM #6 – SPUR CROSS UPDATE – John Gunn, Park Supervisor, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

- Supervisor Gunn gave a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting projects that took place this year, such as the Regional Trail expansion in to Spur Cross, numerous volunteer projects, continuing efforts to control the noxious weeds, a challenge to the Sierra Club to clear an area of noxious weeds and plant ironwood trees which was completed, and the award of a grant for a native fish refugia pond that will have a solar powered pump to be completed by the end of November.
- A challenge that Spur Cross is dealing with is the unlawful entry from private land owners on to the park creating a new road or path through the desert. The one parcel that has an easement through the park cannot legally give access to the other parcel owners to use that same easement.
- Commissioner Arndt asked about the issue of water being removed from the area as well as inquiring about the next projects on the horizon. Supervisor Gunn stated that water is still being taken out of the area according to the Forest Service. He has not been able to get copies of the records stating that but is still working on it. The Forest Service has acquired 28 acres of the property.
- Commissioner Arndt commended Supervisor Gunn on his research work, and also commended Chris Coover for his work on the Regional Trail.

**ITEM #7 – PRESENTATION OF PARKS NEW MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT – Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Superintendent, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

- This item is tabled until the November 13<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting, Commissioner Arndt motioned with a second by Vice Chair Lynch.

**ITEM #8 – UPDATE ON THE PLANNING FOR THE NORTH REACH OF LAKE PLEASANT – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

- Director Cardin stated that the first three public meetings were finished and the Parks Department had received 78 feedback forms from the public; 25 via email and 53 at the public meetings. Majority of comments via email stated that they were against the motorized access and supported limited access. Some comments that were received stated an entrance needed to be established for the area, as most didn’t know if they were on County land, State land or Bureau of Land Management land and if they knew what areas were and the activities allowed were designated they would go to that specific area of land.

- General consensus from the partners is to keep the area non-motorized for the time being.
- The next partner meeting was scheduled for today, Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. The next public meeting is on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Desert Outdoor Center, at either 6 or 6:30 p.m. Specific time will be identified as the date gets closer.

**ITEM # 9– CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

- Commissioner Arndt commented on handouts that were provided by the Rio Verde Community. She asked to have this added to the November agenda to be discussed further. She would like to invite them to the next meeting and let them know that we are addressing this. Director Cardin stated the issue will be added to the November agenda.

**Item # 10 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- None.

**Item # 11 – ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m..

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R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

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Jill Kusy, Chair